المجلس الإسلامي
Islamic Council

19 February 1992

Mr Richard Schifter
Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights
Department of State
Washington

Dear Mr Schifter,

We read with interest of your recent meeting with President Mubarak to discuss a state department report on human rights in Egypt.

As I am sure you are aware the true situation on human rights in Egypt is abysmal. Amnesty International has published much factual material in this respect, for example their 1991 report entitled 'Egypt, Ten years of torture' and most recently (January 1992) a report on 'Egypt, Security police detentions undermine the rule of law'.

President Mubarak has now governed for more than 10 years under emergency law. During this period there have been thousands of arbitrary arrests, cases of imprisonment without trial, rearrests immediately after acquittals, torture has been well-documented and many innocent people have died. Usually their only 'crime' has been to voice their opinions, one of the most basic of human rights.

The United States is in a position to exert much influence on President Mubarak and I hope very much that your discussions with him will bear some fruit.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for me to be sent a copy of the state department's report on human rights in Egypt.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

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اللجنة الاسلامية الدولية لحقوق الانسان

International Islamic Commission on Human Rights

La Commission Islamique Internationale
pour les Droits de l'Homme

19 February 1992

Ms Virginia Sherry
Middle East Watch
485 5th Avenue
New York
NY 10017/6104

Dear Ms Sherry,

We were interested to read of your recent visit to the Egyptian prisoners who are on hunger strike in Tora prison.

The International Islamic Commission on Human Rights has long campaigned against the emergency laws under which the Egyptian regime has governed for now more than 10 years, and the resultant imprisonment without trial, rearrests after acquittals, well-documented torture and many other infringements of human rights.

We should welcome cooperation with you in this field and if a report of your visit is available I should be grateful to receive a copy as well as any other recent reports on the Middle East.

I look forward to hearing from you and to future mutual cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

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Secretary General

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